



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

101 South Main, Suite 102 • Temple, Texas 76501

Phone: (254) 742-9756 • Fax: (254) 742-9709 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: January 23, 2006
Release Number TX 118.06

Contact Name: Daniel Torres
Telephone Number: (254)742-9756
Email: Daniel.Torres@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT TRAINING SESSION FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

BRYAN, TEXAS, January 23, 2006—USDA Rural Development is accepting competitive applications for nearly \$19.5 million in grants to develop value-added agriculture business ventures and alternative sources of renewable energy.

“USDA Rural Development promotes efforts to bring together agricultural producers and rural businesses to spur economic opportunities for rural communities” said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director. “During Fiscal Year 2005 Texas USDA Rural Development awarded over \$1 million in Value-Added Producer Grants.”

The Value-Added Producer Grant Program provides competitive grant funds for one of the two following activities: (1) to support the planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product or (2) to acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets. The maximum award for a planning grant is \$100,000 and the maximum award for a working capital grant is \$300,000.

Grants are available to independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Value-added products are those agricultural products, which gain value through processing, production, segregation or other means, or produce renewable energy on a farm or ranch. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than March 31, 2006.

USDA Rural Development has scheduled a meeting for potential applicants on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Texas A&M Brazos County Cooperative Extension Office, 2619 Hwy. 21 West, Bryan, Texas. Topics to be discussed include; in-depth information on the availability of grant funds, eligibility requirements, eligible uses of grant funds, and how to apply. For more information on the Value-Added Producer Grant program, please contact Billy Curb, Business and Cooperative Specialist at (254) 742-9775.

#

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

